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HER OWN VOICE
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CAPASTORS CALL
FOR TEXACO
BOYCOTT

by Matthew Fordahl

SAN DIEGO (AP)—Presbyterian clergyman Herbert Christ kicked off a boycott of Texaco on Wednesday, cutting up his credit card to protest racist comments attributed to the oil company's executives.

About a dozen ministers and business officials urged consumers to shun Texaco products, cut up credit cards and sell shares until the oil giant's leadership is replaced. Organizers said their idea will spread.

Company officials did not return telephone messages seeking comment on the boycott, but two employees involved in the tape-recorded discussion in August 1994 were suspended Wednesday.

Protest organizers refused to speculate on the boycott's impact, saying they plan to sell the idea to their national organizations, including the National Baptist Convention of America and the Presbyterian Church USA.

San Diego National Bank executive Howard Brotman said he was not surprised racism exists but that a major corporation allowed such ideas to be openly expressed and tolerated.

Several organizers also noted their announcement coincided with the passage of Proposition 209, a state proposition that bans racial and sex preferences in public hiring, contracting and education.

"It is ironic that virtually the same time this state passed Proposition 209 that we have this publicity about the situation at Texaco," said Gary Lynn of the United Way of San Diego. "Texaco provides a dramatic example of why affirmative action is still needed."

BOBBY BROWN
ASSAULT SUIT
SETTLED FOR NOW

by Ite Flores

ORLANDO, FL (AP)—The state dropped charges today against singer Bobby Brown, who was arrested after a nightclub brawl last year and accused of beating a patron after an argument over a woman. The charges of aggravated battery and disorderly conduct against Brown, one of his bodyguards and a publicist were dropped because the beating victim had agreed to settle a civil suit and refuses to prosecute, said Assistant State Attorney Bob Welch.

But the criminal charges may be refilled at a later date, Welch said.

Robert Buonoarso, Orlando attorney for the New Jersey performer, said Brown did not want to settle the civil suit but that the costs of defending his bodyguard against liability would be a financial drain.

"Brown never touched the guy and there is no question in my mind we had an excellent criminal case," Buonoarso told reporters outside the courthouse.

Brown, en route to Orlando for the start of his trial when he learned of the prosecutor's litigation, Buonoarso said.

Neil Kelly, the beating victim in the April 26, 1995 fight at Walt Disney World's Pleasure Island, suffered cuts and bruises and had an ear nearly torn off. He did not appear at the courthouse, apparently staying home in Chicago.

Police said that after his arrest, Brown, 26, urinated in a police patrol car and etched four-letter words in the vinyl. Witnesses said the fight started when Brown was talking to a woman and Kelly tried to break into the conversation. When the woman said she didn't want to speak to Kelly, Brown began arguing with Kelly. Smith intervened, and firefighters equipped with hoses were called.

The three men were out on \$50,000 bond each. They could have faced up to 40 months in prison if convicted as charged, prosecutors said.



CITY NEWS

Serving New Jersey's African American Communities since 1983

November 13 - November 19, 1996

Cooper credits black vote for Clinton/Torricelli win

by Myra A. Thomas

NEW BRUNSWICK—In a post-election press conference at Victory '96 headquarters, Mayor of East Orange and Chairman of Victory '96 Cardell Cooper particularly credited the vote in the African-American community for garnering President Clinton and New Jersey U.S. Senator-elect Bob Torricelli a win.

Mayor Cooper and other key players in the Democratic election efforts were on hand at the November 6 press conference to address the 1996 election results.

Victory '96, an effort by New Jersey Democratic political leaders, sought to ensure election of the Democratic slate of candidates for national, state and local office.

"Obviously, we're all extremely happy to be here this afternoon," said Mayor Cooper, in reference to President Clinton's re-election, "Vote Turnout" (figure), and voter turnout particularly in terms of African-American



East Orange Mayor Cardell Cooper and President Clinton



U.S. Senator-elect Robert Torricelli

and Latino voters in the state, are coming out in extraordinarily high numbers."

Cooper believes African-American voters responded to "the message and the vision" of the President, as well as the message of Torricelli.

Cooper was personally picked by President Clinton for the post of Victory '96 Chairman. Clinton's selection of Cooper has fueled considerable speculation that Cooper will be leaving the post of East Orange Mayor for a presidential appointment. Cooper would not comment as to whether or not a position in the Clinton White House was in the works.

In reference to Victory '96's Base Vote program targeting African-American and Latino voters, Cooper championed the program's efforts.

"We were able to engage, if you will, folks from all facets of the (African-American and Latino) communities," Cooper said. "The proof in the

See COOPER CREDITS/page 10

NTU Fund Trustees deny access to records

by Ron L. Holland

NEWARK—After refusing to comply with a New Jersey State Board of Education subpoena to produce documents related to its operations, four of eight trustees of the Newark Teachers Union's Supplemental Fringe Benefits Fund, were ordered by Superior Court Judge Philip Carmichael to show cause at a November 22nd hearing.

"I don't know what the union-appointed trustees are trying to hide," said Deputy Commissioner of Education Richard DiPatri. "The trustees of the Fund, appointed by the school district, have the right to know how the money is being spent."

"It is also the Department of Education's right and obligation as the agency which regulates public education to ensure that public funds are being spent appropriately."

DiPatri added. Providing teachers', aides and clerks with additional coverage for health benefits, the Supplemental Fringe Benefits Fund receives approximately \$5 million annually from the Newark School District.

The four trustees appointed by the State District Superintendent Beverly Hall were not successful in gaining access to the requested records.

"It is shocking that the trustees have ignored a State Board of Education subpoena and have continued to deny the district and the district's trustees access to the Fund's records," DiPatri said.

An inquiry conducted by the State Commission of Investigation disclosed in 1984, that the operation suffered from "widespread abuse" including the payment of excessive compensation to the director of the

Fund, and the purchase of a building to house the Newark Teachers Union.

Records indicate that extravagant payments for overseas travel, was also part of the abuse.

Richard McGinnis, of the Newark Teachers Union and Fund Director, could not be reached for comment. At press time, McGinnis was meeting with lawyers. No one from McGinnis' office was available to comment.

Texaco executives suspended for racist remarks

by Ron L. Holland

NEW YORK—Two employees of Texaco Inc. were suspended with pay and two former senior employees were cut off from their benefits last week, amid charges of using racial epithets and concocting plans to destroy legal documents related to a multi-million dollar discrimination lawsuit.

Texaco, one of the oldest oil companies in the country, suspended Peter Meade, assistant general manager in the Fuel and Marine Marketing

Department, and David Keough, chief financial officer for a Texaco subsidiary.

The former employees, whose benefits were cut, were Robert Ulrich, former treasurer, and Richard Lundwell, former senior coordinator of Personnel Services in Texaco's finance department.

Audiotapes recorded in 1994 revealed vulgar conversations between three of the accused executives belittling black employees, referring to them as "niggers" and "black jelly beans,"

and criticizing the African-American celebration of Kwanzaa.

"I have just today listened to those tapes myself," said Texaco Chairman Peter Bijur in a November 6 news conference.

"I can tell you that the statements on the tapes arouse a deep sense of shock and anger in me and among all of the Texaco family, and decent people everywhere."

Bijur said, during the conference,

See TEXACO EXECUTIVES/page 10

Newarkers join forces to clean Weequahic Park



NEWARK—Hundreds of volunteers converged upon Essex County's historic, 311 acre Weequahic Park to participate in a cleanup for "Make a Difference Day." Organized by New Jersey Community Water Watch (NJCWW), an AmeriCorps program sponsored by New Jersey Public Interest Research Group (NPIRG) Law and Policy Center, and the Weequahic Park Association (WPA), the cleanup brought together residents, community members, students, AmeriCorps members and city and county departments in a joint effort to restore Weequahic Park. NJCWW is working to improve urban water quality through water quality monitoring, public education and clean up efforts such as this one. The City of Newark, as well as Essex County have both contributed to the efforts to restore Weequahic Park. Mayor Sharpe James has supported the WPA as being a model association for other organizations in Newark to follow. "We need citizen participation, community people willing to volunteer their time," commented James. Pictured above, AmeriCorps member Wendy Coaling of Newark is up to her knees in water as she helps to clean up the lake in the park.

Hillman-Jones honored for community service



PINE BROOK—Gladys Hillman-Jones (c) of Orange, assistant superintendent of Newark Public Schools, was recently honored for "making a difference" in her community by the North Jersey Chapter of the March of Dimes during its 5th Annual Community Award Banquet. Pictured with Hillman-Jones are her husband, Harold Jones, Jr. (l) and Tom Henderson, a March of Dimes board member. Community Service Awards committee member and resident of Orange, Proverbs of the banquet will benefit the March of Dimes Campaign for Healthier Babies.

Got news? We want to hear it. Call us at 908-754-3400 or fax story ideas in to 908-753-1036

Community Calendar

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 13
CRANFORD—Baseball and softball coaches, trainers, and players will be able to obtain instruction in "Proper Pitching Mechanics" through a non-credit course to be offered this fall by Union County College. For more info call 908-750-7600.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 13
MAHWAH—Audrey Carey, first African-American Female Mayor of New York State to speak at Ramapo College, in Friends Hall at 6:30 p.m. For more info call 201-525-7413.

CRANFORD—Union County College will sponsor a financial aid workshop in the Roy W. Smith Theater at the Cranford Campus at 6 p.m. For more info call 908-709-7141.

PLAINFIELD—Union County College will sponsor a financial aid workshop in room 119 at the Plainfield Campus at 6 p.m. For more info call 908-412-3571.

ELIZABETH—Union County College will sponsor a financial aid workshop in room 514 at Elizabeth Campus at 10 a.m. and 6 p.m. For more info call 908-985-6063.

NEW BRUNSWICK—The New Jersey State Bar Foundation will present a seminar on Law and Disability from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. For more info call 908-249-5000.

CRANFORD—Patrick Gyllin will perform a classical guitar concert at Union County College from 3 to 5 p.m. For more info call 908-709-7576.

PLAINFIELD—The Business Owners Institute is sponsoring a Medical Career Training workshop at the United National Bank Community Education Center from 6 to 8:30 p.m. For more info call 908-756-5000, ext. 2366.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 14
IRVINGTON—The Office of Irvington Urban Enterprise Zone and the NJ Economic Development Authority present a business development seminar from 9:30 to 11 a.m., at the Christian Pentecostal Church. For more info call Lorelei N. Motessai 201-399-5636.

CALDWELL—Caldwell College will hold an Open House for high school students and their parents at 1 p.m. in the Alumni Theatre. For more info call 201-228-4424, ext. 500.

PLAINFIELD—United National Bank is

sponsoring a Basic Steps of Financial Planning workshop at the United National Bank Community Education Center from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. For more info call 908-753-5000, ext. 2366.

NEWARK—The Newark Emergency Services for Families, Inc., will hold its 8th Annual Networking Conference "A Challenge: Building to Improve the Lives of Families and Children" at the Boys and Girls Club from 8:30 a.m. to 10 p.m. For more info call 201-643-5727.

NEW BRUNSWICK—The New Jersey State Bar Foundation is hosting a free seminar on Landlord/Tenant Rights at the New Jersey Law Center from 7 to 9 p.m. For more info call 908-249-5000.

PLAINFIELD—The du Cret School of Art and Design will host an Open House for prospective students from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. and from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. For more info call 908-757-7171.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 15
NUTLEY—A special preview evening for the 1996 Holiday House Boutique Craft show will be held in St. Mary's School from 7 to 9:30 p.m. For more info and reservations call the Passaic County Historical Society at 201-881-2761.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 16
NEWARK—The Newark Branch NAACP presents a free seminar on "Planning your Tax Life: Tips for 1996" from 9:30 a.m. to noon. For more info call 201-524-5400.

NEWARK—Columbus Hospital will sponsor a free diabetes screening program from 8:30 a.m. to noon at Columbus Health Center. For more info call 201-288-1467.

NEWARK—Learn how to create a winning portfolio for Admission to Architecture School at NJIT's free Portfolio Day '96 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. For more info call 201-596-3080.

NEW YORK—Sony Wonder Technology Lab announces Family Day from noon to 4 p.m. For more info call 212-833-8100.

NOVEMBER 16 THRU DECEMBER 1
NUTLEY—Holiday House Boutique Craft Show to benefit the Passaic County Historical Society. Located at St. Mary's School, show hours 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. weekdays, and 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. weekends. For more info call 201-881-2761.

PEOPLE

NANBPW honors volunteers

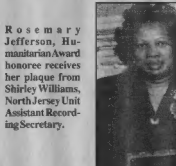
WEST ORANGE—Twenty individuals who have demonstrated selfless commitment to community service were honored by the North Jersey Unit of the National Association of Negro Business and Professional Women's (NANBPW) Club at its 41st Annual Founder's Day Brunch on October 27.

NANBPW is a volunteer community service organization that has served the community for 56 years on projects such as Assault on Literacy, Child Care Initiative, Voter Registration Drives, Women's Health Care and Women's Business Programs. This

year's honorees were: Virginia Fletcher, vice chairperson of Essex Valley Healthcare, Inc.—Sejourne Truth Award; Lloyd J. Oxford, president and CEO of Black United Fund of New Jersey—Man of Distinction Award; Gail Thompson, vice president of design and construction for NJPAC—20th Century Pioneer Award; Rosemary Jefferson, founder of the CINDY Foundation and 25-year PSE&G employee—Humanitarian Award. Scholarship awarders were Keisha Phillips, Andre Taylor, Kamelle Emile, Shakima Davis and Selina Williams.



Virginia Fletcher is congratulated by Paula Smith, national second vice president for NANBPW.



Rosemary Jefferson, Humanitarian Award honoree, receives her plaque from Shirley Williams, North Jersey Unit Assistant Recording Secretary.



Gail Thompson, recipient of the 20th Century Pioneer Award is congratulated by NANBPW member Dr. Rose Campbell.



Scholarship recipients Keisha Phillips, Andre Taylor, Kamelle Emile, Shakima Davis and Selina Williams are congratulated by Cleo Pringle (l), Dorothy Jones (2nd from l), and Barbara Webb (r), 3rd vice president of North Jersey Unit of NANBPW.



Lloyd Oxford, recipient of the Man of Distinction Award is congratulated by Evelyn D. Morrison, president of North Jersey Unit of NANBPW.

Former Girl Scouts wanted for reunion

MONTCLAIR—Were you ever a Girl Scout, or Brownie? Did you go camping at a Girl Scout Camp? If so, you may be one of the thousands of Girl Scout alumni being sought for a Girl Scout Reunion, "Generations Jambores," to celebrate the 85th anniversary of Girl Scouting nationwide. "Generations Jambores," is scheduled for Saturday, March 22, 1997 and is being co-sponsored by the Bergen County, Greater Essex, and Lenni-Lehigh Councils.

For additional information call the Girl Scout Council of Greater Essex County at 201-746-8200.

Union County Urban League hosts 26th Annual E.O.D. dinner

ELIZABETH—The Urban League of Union County, Inc., will host its 26th Annual Equal Opportunity Day Dinner, Thursday, November 14, at L'Affaire, in Montclair.

The theme for this year's dinner is "Implementing an Agenda for Stronger 21st Century Communities." Guest speaker for the evening will be the Rev. Dr. W. Franklin Richardson, pastor of Grace Baptist Church, Mt. Vernon, NY.

Awards to be presented that evening will include: the Corporate Award to the Union County Alliance, for its efforts to revitalize the county's economic base and improve the quality of life for Union County residents; and the Community Service Award to Dr. Henry C. Johnson and Jan M. Edgerton-Johnson, founders of the City News Publishing Co.

The evening will begin with a reception starting at 6 p.m., followed by dinner at 7 p.m. Entertainment will be provided by "A Class Act." For more information call 908-351-7200.

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Event: May 1, 1997

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You must use this form or one from City News to nominate a person for the 100 Most Influential. You must identify yourself and a phone number where you can be reached. The 2nd Annual 100 Most Influential will be held May 1, 1997.

Nomination Form

All information is confidential. Deadline is November 26, 1996

Nominee's name _____
 Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Home phone _____ Business phone _____ Fax _____

Briefly describe why you feel your nominee has contributed significantly to the progress of black people in New Jersey or to the rebuilding of New Jersey's urban centers.

Your name _____ Phone _____
 Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

How do you know this person?

Send to: City News 100, PO Box 191, Plainfield, NJ 07066 or fax to (908) 753-1036.

For information call (908) 754-3400.

Nominee Categories: Please check one category

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Economic & Community Development |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Minority Business Enterprise | <input type="checkbox"/> Corporate Community Involvement |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment & Sports | <input type="checkbox"/> Politics, Law & Government |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Health, Science & Technology | <input type="checkbox"/> Media, Arts & Culture |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Religion | <input type="checkbox"/> Civil Rights |

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Batten named to Board of Devereux Deerhaven School



CHESTER—Ethel G. Batten, of South Orange has been appointed to the board of Devereux Deerhaven, in Chester, Deerehaven is the only residential treatment program and school in the state exclusively for troubled girls and young women. Batten, who serves as department head for Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Policy and Operations for Lucent Technologies nationwide, began her career in the government sector at the Veterans Administration in Washington, DC. She earned her ED/AA certification from Cornell University.

NATION

Women get it done with NCNW

National News
at a GlanceSENATOR CAROL
BRAUNCO-SPONSORS
BLACK PATRIOTS BILL

A bill co-sponsored by U.S. Senator Carol Moseley-Braun (D-IL), authorizing the U.S. Treasury to mint a commemorative coin honoring Black Revolutionary War patriots, recently passed in the Senate by unanimous consent, reports the *Chicago Crusader*. A maximum of 500,000 commemorative coins will be minted. The proceeds will be used to finance a monument honoring Black Revolutionary War patriots on the National Mall in Washington, DC.—CHICAGO, IL.

CHICAGO'S JAMES
JORDAN BOYS AND
GIRLS CLUB OPENS

Chicagoans recently received a monumental gift from basketball great Michael Jordan in the form of the James Jordan Boys and Girls Club and Family Life Center reports the *Chicago Defender*. The building will create learning and recreational opportunities for 4,000 West Side families.—CHICAGO, IL.

HAITIAN CITIZENS
BLOCK PUBLIC SECTOR
REFORM

A plan by the Haitian government to use a combination of direct dismissals, voluntary lay-offs and early retirements to eliminate 7,500 of the 35,000 posts in the public sector is proving to be unpopular, reports IPS. The administration reform program is considered an important part of a package of preliminary economic reforms being undertaken by the government in return for overseas loans and credits. A 1995 survey of civil servants, the *Civil Service Employees Census*, published recently, indicates that only four percent of employees view the proposal "very favorably." Five percent regarded it "somewhat favorably." It was rejected by 92 percent of women employees and 90 percent of men.—HAITI.

ENVIRONMENTAL
ACTIVISTS PROTEST
SALE OF "SUPER CROP"

The world's first major harvest of genetically engineered "super crops" is underway in the United States, spurring activists to step up their efforts to prevent these crops from reaching consumers, reports IPS. Ronnie Cummins, director of Pure Food Campaign, a project of the Washington DC-based Foundation on Economic Trends (FET), said that U.S. farmers are about to harvest 1 million acres of soybeans, half million acres of corn, 2 million acres of cotton, and potatoes that were grown from several million pounds of seed.—WASHINGTON, DC.

GOVERNMENTS TO
AVOID POVERTY ISSUE

The Sustainable Development Summit, planned for Santa Cruz, Bolivia, in December, may not come off as planned if the poverty issue is not dropped. Bolivia's Gonzalo Sanchez de Lozada administration and other regional nations, proposed the poverty issue and its interdependence on sustainable development as the main issue for discussion during the Summit. But, the only way to "save the Summit" now is to leave the social focus aside, diplomatic sources who preferred to remain anonymous, told IPS. Bolivia's Sanchez, returning from a recent trip to Spain and Germany, said poverty was not a "crucial" issue for the agenda on sustainable or ecologically correlated development. Although he has altered his position, he maintains, that the social issue of poverty is implicit in sustainable development. The Summit agenda discussion will continue this week in two technical meetings between Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, United States, Mexico who organized the meeting in the context of the Organization of American States (OAS).—SANTA CRUZ, BOLIVIA.

WASHINGTON, DC—As thousands of women converged on the Nation's Capital from across the country, The National Council of Negro Women (NCNW) Inc. sounded a new voice of leadership, ownership and institution building for black women on October 10, by launching the National Centers for African-American Women and the Dorothy I. Height Leadership Institute.

Reviewing the major accomplishments of "African-American Women Get It Done," Dr. Dorothy I. Height, President/CEO of the 61-year-old organization said the opening ceremony held on Pennsylvania Avenue "set the tone for the new beginning for NCNW."

Opening remarks by First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton, greetings by DC Mayor Marion Barry, the reading of the National Centers Charter by Dr. Maya Angelou and the vigilant rallying cries from Dr. Camille Cosby, *ESSENCE* Editor, Susan Taylor, Cicely Tyson, DC First Lady Cora Masters Barry and newswoman Renee Pousaint "proclaimed to America that for African-American Women our time has come," Height stated.

The Role of emerging and estab-

lished African-American women's leadership was a major topical area which sparked a great interest and enthusiasm from a diverse crowd of high school to elderly women.

The central issue focus of the three-day event was a discussion of "Women and Work." "In a heightened climate of unemployment, government and private sector downsizing, and a shrinking economy we needed to address the critical issue of the status of African-American women in the U.S. workforce," Height stated.

Via Satellite African-American women were connected in over 38 cities across the nation to share their views, concerns and recommendations on where they were, and how they should be preparing for the 21st Century.

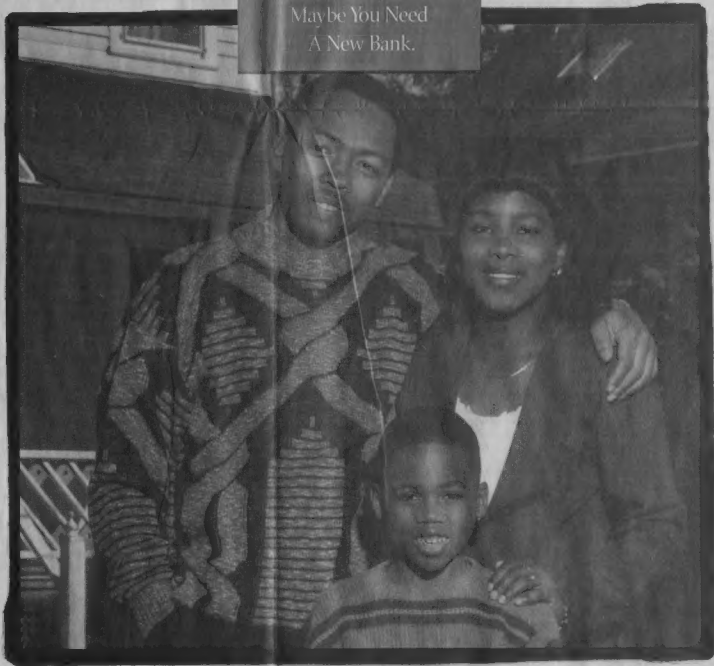
"The daily feedback we are getting from these major urban and rural areas is that African-American women are knowledgeable on the issues, seeking concrete answers and solutions for themselves and their families and claiming victory to a new day in politics. Never again shall we be left out, placed behind or allow someone else to speak for us," Dr. Height stated.



Pictured at the opening celebration of the new NCNW headquarters and the Dorothy Height Leadership Institute are Dr. Height, First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton, Camille Cosby and Susan Taylor.

Photo by Louis Myrie

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EDITORIAL

Corporate America's dirty little secret

What profound finding. Four top executives of Texaco Inc. on Audiotape enjoying a racist and bigoted conversation at the expense of their African-American employees. At a time when the conservatives have waged an unrelenting war and our social programs are vilified, a racial scandal of significant proportions reminds this country of just how far we've regressed. What is truly unfortunate however, is the obvious disregard for sensitivity and blatant dismissal of ethics. Our acceptance of intolerance is rooted in our lack of commitment toward equality. And the consequences are evident. Black unemployment is three times that of whites, major initiatives, like California's "Proposition 209" are given legitimacy, and bill's disguised as reform are malicious ploys to sway voters. This is why the anti-affirmative action campaigns are relevant to the Texaco scandal. Corporate America has long enjoyed it's reign as the citadel of white male dominance and has accommodated a prevailing attitude of superiority. Board room bigotry and minority exclusion is a routine procedure that maintains the status quo. Not only does the cliché of the "glass ceiling" have credence, a virtual lock out of these institutions is the reality.

America's largest corporations, and government's most vital positions are occupied primarily by white males who refuse to relinquish power in the interest of diversity. So, one has to question why the Texaco executives, whose positions were not in the least bit threatened, make such derogatory and hateful statements. Simple. Unadulterated and spiteful racism. To refer to African Americans as "Niggers, Black Jolly Beans" and ridicule the African American celebration of Kwanzaa, requires a great deal of hate. Because, this demonstrates why programs like affirmative action must exist. Because for too long we've allowed backroom politics, boardroom bigotry and racial intolerance flourish in our financial and corporate institutions. This has truly been detrimental to the African American and other minority communities. Opponents of affirmative action need to take stock of their position. The Texaco racial scandal is just another example of how power and opportunity will continue to allude minorities and women without support and guidance of affirmative action laws.

The farce of a CIA internal investigation

by Ron L. Holland

It takes an extraordinary effort to look into the face of a drug addicted woman whose discolored lips, and teeth kept half and tattered clothing are in stark contrast to the beauty she once possessed. Its disheartening to witness a 36-year-old man clanking in the corner of a urine stained hallway and accosted by a 16-year-old youth because the elder smoked the last of a cocaine laced marijuana cigarette.

It is a heavy burden for a community of grandmothers to endure the responsibility of raising crack addicted grandchildren while living in dilapidated housing in crime ridden neighborhoods. This undeniable reality demands a national effort to uncover the disguise of the persons and entities responsible for this plague of our urban communities.

The allegations, now a discredited infamy, that agents of the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) are responsible for Crack Cocaine distribution in a LA black community to fund the Nicaraguan Contras does have merit. It is abundantly clear however, that the major media's attempt to discredit the original *San Jose Mercury* series *The Dark Alliance* is a neglectful obvious contradiction when we consider the Congressional probe into the White Water debacle.

The inference that President Clinton, was involved in some tax scheme as an Arkansas governor, responds to tangible proof by major media, on immorality and election scandal. Although the Congressional probe revealed absolutely nothing of substance, the insinuation gave such credibility to the allegation, that a post election poll indicates that the American public believes Clinton is not trustworthy.

However, when exploring the possibility that the CIA could be involved in crack cocaine distribution to support their efforts in Nicaragua,

media outlets across the country demand a reasonable doubt. Why not do so:

*Enrique Berniz was the CIA-paid head of the Contra army.

*Berniz appointed Norman Meneses, to be in charge of the CIA-backed Nicaraguan Democratic Force (FDN) Meneses also supervised the importation of thousands of kilos of cocaine in California. And, a polyspy trace of his funds revealed that he gave a \$50,000 contribution to the FDN.

*Daniel Blandon, according to the report was a Drug Enforcement Agency Informant (DEA), who says he began selling cocaine for Meneses.

*Ronald Lister names a David Scott Weekly as his CIA contact when he was raided by an LA Sheriff's department. Interestingly, Lister was a police officer.

The tangibility of the evidence is clear. But the media's acceptance of a forthcoming CIA internal investigation is foolish. Because, the international implications are staggering. It essentially annihilates the perception that America is the champion of democracy. It does perhaps reveal that our democracy is rooted in the untiring of world governments with the very tactics that are destroying our urban communities.

While not excusing the profit motive of a street corner drug dealer, the proclamation that blacks are not in ownership of mass transportation is valid and undisputed. It is a long standing adage that blacks do not own planes, trains or ships to bring drugs into the country.

Therefore, it is disingenuous, indeed absurd, to expect the black community to accept an internal investigation of the CIA. It is also disingenuous for major media to discredit this story when CIA officials and other government agencies have not concluded their investigations.

by William Reed

The biggest surprise of the year for Spike Lee and Sony Pictures was that for African Americans did not go to the theaters to see *Get On the Bus*. Their astonishment at the box-office may be directly related to the surprise they sprung on the black community when the released movie about the Million Man March that did not shun Nation of Islam Minister Louis Farrakhan. Luckless ticket sales and the intentional snubbing of Farrakhan in *Get On the Bus* may be proverbial "Chickens coming home to roost."

In the movie which was released to coincide with the first anniversary of the march, you hear some characters, white and black, praise and argue about Mr. Farrakhan, but you don't see him. Supposedly to show what else drew the masses to the Washington Mall on Oct. 16, 1995, the film takes a bottom-up view through the eyes of a motley crew of black men on a cross-country bus odyssey from Los Angeles to the march.

Shot guerrilla-style in three weeks' production time, the \$2.4 million movie attempts to separate the march from Farrakhan, and many have concluded that therein lies its box-office problem.

In concert with ongoing efforts of the mainstream media, Lee decided to negate Farrakhan's role in bringing about the Million Man March. The movie caters to the taste of Hollywood's moguls and downplays Minister Farrakhan's stature as a national black leader, obviously figuring that if you ignore him he will go away.

In reality, Lee, and his associates, would have done better toward grasping the turmoils in movie houses if they'd employed some of Farrakhan's techniques to the selling of *Get On the Bus*. What seems to be continually overlooked by all is the fact that Farrakhan is the movie Farrakhan and Ben Chavis put into the Million Man March long before Oct. 16, 1995. The mainstream media people, who continually seek to designate our leaders for us, invariably ignore the fact that Farrakhan literally went door-to-door for a full year to build a constituency for the Million Man March.

They still are missing the marketing and positioning importance of the "Men Only Meetings" that Farrakhan held from Boston to Birmingham in 1994 and 1995. Lee, and his mainstream associates, give no credence to the role that the black media played in reporting about the "Men Only Meetings" and trumpeting if the Million Man March. And surely, Lee & Associates missed the message that Farrakhan was delivering, in messianic enough magic to invoke a powerful role of word-of-mouth communication among black men about a massive display of black male solidarity.

It is very important to note that Spike's mainstream media associates didn't know that the Million Man March was happening until long after the buses to Washington had already been chartered. And, that Lee has no first-hand knowledge of the march's magic—he didn't attend. The mainstream community is trying to downgrade Farrakhan illustrating that the attendees didn't bond to produce viable corps in black American communities.

In contrast, Farrakhan, and the FBI, report that murders, burglaries and violent crime are down since last year's march. Eventually it may be come evident to the mainstream community, and Lee, that by ignoring the Million Man March, Lee and his mainstream media associates are trying to make a skin to having an elephant in

your living room and pretending it's not there.

One of the other ruses employed toward getting blacks to patronize *Get On the Bus* is the half-truth that it was produced, directed and financed by wealthy black men. While people such as Danny Glover, Wesley Snipes, Will Smith, Johnnie L. Cochran, Jr., Jerry Busby, Robert Guillaume and Black Entertainment Television CEO Robert Johnson, among others, did pony up between \$100,000 and \$250,000 apiece toward the production of *Get On the Bus*, in a move that is considered extremely unusual in the industry, they all got their money back, plus an eight percent profit, before the movie's release.

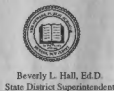
The problem Lee faced in "shopping" a film about the Million Man March was that no Hollywood studio would touch a film featuring Farrakhan. So, as a part of the film's evolving concept, and plot, any depiction of Farrakhan was left on the cutting room floor. After the film was safely in the can, minus Farrakhan, *Get On the Bus* was saleable to a mainstream company. Lee & Associates made a tidy profit when they sold *Get On the Bus* to Columbia Pictures for \$3.6 million distribution.

The chickens have come home to roost because the black community is showing those associated with *Get On the Bus* a type of passive protest and

boycott by withholding their purchasing power for the film. The industry did not buy into the film at first because of the looming impact of Farrakhan. Now that the image of Farrakhan, and stature, has been cut out of it, Sony's Columbia Pictures has bought into a film with the central figure for African Americans gone.

Those blacks who were expected to buy tickets for *Get On the Bus* are staying at home probably looking at pictures that adorn their walls depicting the throngs of blacks at the greatest triumph of black men in the past 20 years.

William Reed is publisher of *Who's Who in Black Corporate America*.



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Leo Klagholz
Commissioner of Education

JOIN US ON THE ROAD TO EXCELLENCE: AN OPEN LETTER TO THE NEWARK COMMUNITY FROM DR. BEVERLY L. HALL, STATE DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT

November 14, 1996

I would like to invite the entire Newark community to visit one of the district's 82 schools this fall. Come and see for yourself the new emphasis on student academic achievement in our classrooms. Through your personal presence in a New York school, join us on the road to educational excellence.

It has been said that "A journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step." To some, the challenge of making certain that Newark Schools educate all students to high achievement levels may seem like an endless journey. But, to many parents, educators, students, local civic and religious leaders, and other community members, building schools that produce excellent results is a "can do" goal.

Beginning a journey, however, is not the same as reaching a destination. And, no educator or parent can simply wish improvement into place. For reaching, real change of a broken school system demands very hard work from many people over a sustained period of time. Getting started requires a great expenditure of energy to shake off the past and to overcome obstacles to change.

Last year, one of the district's first tasks was to establish the proper physical and safety conditions for educational improvements to take hold. We are still working on this objective and much progress has already been made. This year, our cluster-level School Leadership Teams (SLTs) and building-level School Core Teams are focused on strengthening teaching and learning. The parents, principal and staff on every core team, map out their school's route to educational excellence. From my viewpoint, these key groups have taken the first steps on the road to curricular reform based on high expectations for all students.

If serious change is to occur, support for it must come from both sides of the schoolhouse door. That is why I am encouraging you to visit a school early on in the change process, when everything is not yet as we would like it to be. Come any way; celebrate the good first steps and challenge us with your constructive suggestions. At the building, SLT, and district level, tell us how we can better meet the needs of the children you trust us to serve.

Visit any elementary school and ask a student to show you his or her new reading and mathematics books. Visit the new Technology High School at the former COED site and experience students' renewed excitement and engagement. Regardless of your status as a parent or grandparent, give yourself a real treat and visit one of the 45 new kindergarten classrooms throughout the city. See the promise of the future through the eyes of the Class of 2009.

For those interested in the education of adolescents, visit one of the 38 grade eight classes where students now study algebra. Visit one of the city's 13 high schools and tour it with a student leader who is a member of the district's Youth Leadership 2000 corps. Speak with the SLT assistant superintendent and building principal about the new five year Strategic Plan for student achievement. Yes, our school system has far to go, but we have taken the first tough steps toward a "must reach" early milestone—all students learning.

Newark's road to excellence will not be entirely smooth. The district will encounter bumps and jolts along the way. However, the district must ensure that its decisions are based on what is best for the education of the city's 47,000 public school students. And, everyone concerned about the education of Newark's children must learn to collaborate—even when disagreements blur the milestones along the road or even our ultimate destination. That is why this fall is a good time for us to come together in our schools as concerned and committed parents, educators and community members.

American Education Week (November 18 - 22), provides a special occasion for school visits. The schools will be open in the evening for parents and guardians to meet the teachers and administrators to whom they have entrusted their most precious resources—their children. This would also be a fine time for other members of the community to drop-in and to hear about the school's goals, plans, challenges and opportunities for volunteers to get involved.

It is also important that the community hear from each school principal, faculty, and core team about specific plans for preparing students to meet the new, more rigorous core curriculum content standards. So, come with your questions and suggestions. Tell us what's working and what needs further attention. Become a partner in school reform and a companion on the journey toward excellence.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CALL:

SLT	WARD	ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT	PHONE #
I	East/Central	Ms. Anzella Nelms	733-8616
II	High Schools	Ms. Catherine Murphy	268-5117
III	South	Mr. Robert Copeland	733-8613
IV	North	Ms. Lydia Silva	497-5762
V	West	Mr. Don Marinaro	733-8722

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Religious Calendar

A WORD OF HOPE

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 16
EAST ORANGE—The East Orange Unified Council of PTAs/PTOs in association with Glory Productions & Co., Inc. presents "The Jesus Here Yet!" an inspirational gospel musical at Clifford J. Scott High School at 7 p.m. For more info call 201-378-4940 or 201-673-0897.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 17
JERSEY CITY—Hudson County Community College invites residents to Korean Presbyterian service at the First Korean Church of New Jersey at noon. For more info call 201-714-2107.

ASBURY PARK—The Second Baptist Church will hold its 36th Annual Women's Day celebration at the 11 a.m. Worship Service. For more info call 908-778-6987.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 24
HALEDON—The Catholic Campus Ministry of William Paterson College will have a celebration to close its Thanksgiving Awareness Program at 7:30 p.m. For more info call 201-595-6184.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 30
IRVINGTON—Deliverance Jesus is Coming Church invites all to attend the consecration service of Bishop-elect James H. Everett, Jr. at 9 a.m. For more info call 201-375-8500.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 7
NEWARK—St. Rosa Church is hosting its St. Rosa Fiesta Market from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. For more info call 201-623-2500.

Sisters of Mercy celebrate 50 years of service

WATCHUNG—Five nuns who live and work at Mount Saint Mary in Watchung, along with one sister who is a native of Plainfield recently celebrated 50 years of service in the Mercy order. Pictured are Sister Diane Szabrowski, president of the Sisters of Mercy Regional Community of New Jersey (seated l), Sister Camillus Peterson (seated r), standing (l to r) Sisters Dorothy Flynn, Corita Sweeney, Faith Moore, Lea Labrecque and Innocent Dolan. A Mass of Thanksgiving, commemorating the Golden Jubilee of 11 Sisters of Mercy of the Americas in the Regional Community of New Jersey, was celebrated in the Immaculate Conception Chapel at Mount Saint Mary on October 19.

The good shepherd takes care of his flock

by Rev. Maxine L. Thomas

I am the good shepherd, and know my sheep, and am known of mine. As the Father knoweth me, even so know I the Father; and I lay down my life for the sheep.
 John 10:14,15

Isn't it wonderful to know that somebody cares about you? My friend, Jesus cares about you. He is intimately concerned about everything concerning you. The Bible says that He came that we might have life, and that more abundantly (Jo. 10:10). Beloved, God cares.

Let us take time to reflect upon the goodness of our Lord; for every now and then, we've got to pull away from all of our cares and thoughts... from everything that has our attention at present, and just center in on Jesus. A song writer said, "When I think of the goodness of Jesus, and all He has done for me... my soul cries out, Hallelujah! I thank God for saving me." Is that your testimony today?

Look at where the Lord has brought you from. He's brought some of us through the raging storms of life... when we didn't know whether we were coming or going... when it seemed like

all around us was darkness and despair... when it seemed like nobody loved us or cared about us... when we didn't have any hope for tomorrow... the Lord brought us through the storms of life. Look where God has brought you from!

If it had not been for the Lord on our side, some of us would be in jail right now... some of us would be all messed up. We'd be on our way to hell.

But I'm so glad I can remember where the Lord found me when He saved my soul. And when I think about His goodness, my soul cries out, Hallelujah!

And Jesus says of Himself, "I am the good shepherd." A shepherd is one who attends sheep. He cares for them. Because he cares for his sheep, he does all that he does, not out of a sense of duty, but because he delights to do it. It is his great pleasure to take care of his sheep.

My friend, Jesus is pleased to take care of us. The Bible says that we are the people of His pasture (Ps. 95:7). The Psalmist David said, "The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want." (Ps. 23:1).

Beloved, there is absolutely no reason for us to want... for the Lord is

our shepherd. Yes, He will supply all of our needs according to His riches in glory (Ph. 4:19). Seek ye first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these other things shall be added unto you (Mat. 6:33).

Have faith in God. He wants to fill your life with His love... His peace... His joy. The Lord is good, and His mercies are from everlasting to everlasting.

Not only does a shepherd feed his flock, but he protects his flock. The Lord is our protection by day and by night. He shields us from the fiery darts of Satan, our enemy. The Lord is our help in ages past, and our hope in years to come. He will not suffer our feet to stumble.

Jesus is the good shepherd. He leads us in the paths of righteousness for His name's sake. Therefore, I can declare with David, "Yeah, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; for the Lord is with me. He has promised never to leave us nor forsake us. So, where He leads, I will follow. My friend, have you decided to follow Jesus? You are loved.

Rev. Thomas can be reached c/o City News, P.O. Box 1774, Plainfield, New Jersey 07061.

Seacoast Baptist honors ushers



WEST LONG BRANCH—Barbara Anderson, (l), of Second Baptist Church of Matawan, and Jessie Phillips (r) of Mount Pisgah Baptist Temple of Asbury Park were honored for their dedication and service by the Seacoast Ushers Union at its Founders' Day Luncheon at Squire's Pub, Long Branch. Also honored for service to their respective churches and the Ushers Union were Catherine Banks of Mount Carmel Baptist Church, Neptune; Virginia Clark of Shiloh Baptist Church, Manasquan; Charles Lomack of Mount Pisgah Baptist Temple; Mary Morris and Louise Young of Second Baptist Church, Long Branch; Catherine Rose of Emanuel Baptist Church, Tinton Falls; and Hattie Smith and Blossie Stephens of True Vine Baptist Church, Asbury Park. Twenty-five churches are members of the Seacoast Ushers Union. Lula B. Wilson is the president of the ushers union.

New Senate Bill will toughen penalties for church arsonists

TRENTON—Legislation sponsored by Assemblyman Tom Smith that would impose tougher penalties for arsonists who target churches, synagogues and other places of worship in the state was approved by the Assembly.

Under the legislation, A-2166, an act of arson against houses of worship would become a first-degree crime, with a maximum penalty of 20 years in jail and a \$100,000 fine. The arsonist

would have to serve a mandatory minimum of 15 years in jail.

To date, more than 30 black churches in the south have been burned since January 1995. In New Jersey, the One Voice Baptist Church in Tinton Falls was burned beyond repair. According to Smith, investigators have labeled the cause of the fire as arson.

"These fires are one of the most heinous despicable acts upon one of

the freedoms that we most cherish, the fundamental freedom of religion," said Smith. "We need for all religious, civic and governmental communities to rise up against these acts of hatred and stand together to fight for all people."

Earlier this year, Smith hosted an ecumenical gathering of religious leaders in Trenton, and called upon the faithful of all religious denominations to unite and crusade against the wave of arson that damaged or destroyed black churches in 15 states.

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YOUTHBEAT

Kids Kalendar

NOVEMBER 14 THRU 15
FREEMOLD—The Monmouth County Park System will hold a "Patriotic Archery" workshop for kids ages eight to 12 at Monmouth Area Activity Lodge at Turkey Swamp Park. For more info call 908-842-4000.

NOVEMBER 19 THRU 24
NEW YORK—The New Victory Theater presents the Sesame Street Film Festival. For more info call 212-382-4020.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 23
NEW BRUNSWICK—Showering Players' fall season of Saturday Classes in Dramatics begins. For more info call 908-932-9772.

WESTFIELD—The 4-H Arts & Craft Club will hold its introductory meeting at the Union County 4-H office from 10 a.m. to noon. For more info call 908-654-9854.

NOVEMBER 29 THRU DEC. 21
METUCHEN—The Forum Theatre starts off 1996-97 Kids Forum Season with *The Dangerous Christmas* or *Red Riding Hood* at 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. For more info call 908-548-0582.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 4
JERSEY CITY—Creative Knowing: A Function of Storytelling concludes with *Multicultural Stories* by Gioia Timpinelli at Jersey City State College from 9 a.m. to noon. For more info call 201-200-3214.

THRU DECEMBER 15
NEWARK—The New Jersey Historical Society showcases *The Kids Bridge* exhibition at 230 Broadway. For more info call 201-483-9339.

UPPER MOUNT CLAIR—Montclair State University hosts its Academic Gifted/Talented Youth Program on Saturdays and Sundays. For more info call 201-655-4104.

THUR JUNE 1997
WESTFIELD—4-H is starting a Pet Club for first and second graders. For more info call 908-654-9854.

East Orange Youth Corps learns the importance of voting



The members of the East Orange Youth Corps were as busy as the candidates those past election months. The youth held voter registration drives and were successful in registering over 1,000 voters. Pictured above: 1. Youth register voters at the East Orange Post Office. 2. Corps members are spotted with Rev. Jesse Jackson after gathering at the Messiah Baptist Church in East Orange. 3. Corps members come out to listen to the first black female assistant to a President, Alexis Herman (2nd from right) and East Orange Mayor Cardell Cooper. 4. Posters and poems depicting the importance and the history of voting were created by Corps members. 5. Naughty By Nature member Vinny is surrounded by teens as he signs autographs at one of their workshops. 6. East Orange Councilman Leroy Jones (c) was on hand at one workshop. He is pictured with teens and a Corps director Sharon Vincent (3rd from right) and Corps teacher Neville Madan.

Elizabeth teachers get Internet preparation

CRANFORD—The Union County Tech Prep Consortium will sponsor two, eight-week training courses on Internet knowledge for high school teachers from school districts in the Consortium.

The courses will be held at Union County College's Cranford Campus. Elizabeth Leppig, the College's manager of information technologies, and her assistant, Rosa Perini, will serve

as facilitators. The program is a Pilot project during the Fall Semester exclusively for Elizabeth High School teachers. The training will be expanded throughout the County for the Spring

High schools compete for \$30,000 scholarships and prizes

NEWARK—New Jersey high school students should dust off those old erector sets because they will be needed to help test students' knowledge of the physics of mechanics and electricity in the 7th Annual Panasonic Creative Design Challenge. Winners will receive \$30,000 in scholarships and prizes.

The competition, called "Span the Gap," is sponsored by the Panasonic Industrial Company of Secaucus, and New Jersey Institute of Technology. The competition finals will be held at Liberty Science Center in Jersey City on April 29, 1997.

The following are the deadlines for the competition:
Final Registration Deadline: December 2, 1996 (Kits Mailed December 6)

Preliminary Qualification Trials: January 28 to February 4 (Panasonic headquarters)
The Challenge Finals: April 29, 1997 (Liberty Science Center)

Teams compete for 600 points based on the categories of Performance, Oral Presentation, Written Presentation and Logbook. Members of each winning team will receive cash scholarships of \$4,000 (for first prize, \$3,000 for second, \$2,000 for third and \$1,000 for fourth). They will also receive Panasonic products valued up to \$500.

Special prizes are also awarded for the best score from the first three categories and for the Most Creative Original design. For more information or to register, call 201-596-3550.

Rider University gives youth a taste of the business world

TRENTON—A group of Trenton sixth-graders will soon participate in a new project spearheaded by Rider University's College of Business Administration (CBA), which is aimed at helping students realize their potential through creating and running their own business.

"Minding Our Business" (MOB), a community service/mentoring project initiated and directed by University professor Dr. Sigfredo Hernandez, will begin operations in January, 1997, at the Holland Middle School.

The project will involve 100 sixth-grade students who will be grouped under mentoring teams consisting of University CBA students, parents of participating sixth-graders, and community business leaders.

The goal of these mentors will be to educate and develop entrepreneurial skills in these 11- and 12-year-olds, while at the same time educate Rider students on the management side of

business. "CBA students will benefit by practicing social responsibility through their mentoring experience," said Dr. Hernandez. "They will have a chance to develop their leadership, communication, team building, conflict management, diversity management and consulting skills."

"They will learn about business planning and the management process by overseeing the operations of micro-businesses run by sixth-graders."

Each group of 10 students will develop an idea and present a business plan to the MOB Advisory Board, which will consist of the Holland Middle School principal, CBA Dean Mark Sandberg, and area business leaders.

The board will grant up to \$200 to each team's business plan based on their presentation, which will be used to execute and manage their businesses.

New Brunswick Health Fair attracts hundreds



Administrator of Health Services for the New Brunswick Public Schools, Betty Hawkins (r), congratulates the winners of the "Wellness Works" Health Poster Contest. The winners, pictured above, are elementary school students from Paul Robeson Community School in New Brunswick.

NEW BRUNSWICK—More than 340 attendees danced their way into Paul Robeson Community School in New Brunswick, on the night of October 22, for a highly successful community health fair.

The Royal Ulmets Drill Team beat the drums and performed through the streets of New Brunswick to excite the crowd, and convince any wavering participants to join the party and make "wellness work."

The program offered numerous health screenings, referrals, and preventive care, targeting inner-city residents who may not have access to regular primary care.

"We work to overcome many barriers to health care such as language, culture and income," stated co-organizer Mariam Mercedes, Director of Community Health Promotion at

Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital (RWJUH).

"We saw a tremendous increase in participation from the African-American community, especially children," noted Robert Garrison, Coordinator of Community Health Promotion at RWJUH.

"Children from the school created colorful posters to promote 'Wellness Works,' and then attended the fair with their parents."

Children from kindergarten to fifth graders participated in the contest, with prizes going to the various winners. The youngsters' posters dealt with a vast array of subjects, such as drugs, nutrition and street safety.

Fifty-two children received vaccinations and more than 200 flu shots were given to adults at the fair. Screenings conducted included hypertension, cholesterol, and stroke prevention,

and when indicated, follow-up referrals were made to community-based physicians or clinics. The new mobile health van sponsored by St. Peter's Medical Center was available for preview tours.

The event was sponsored in conjunction with Health Services of the New Brunswick Public Schools, Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital, the Linguistic Office of the Board of Education, UMDNJ-RWJ Medical School-Eric B. Chandler Health Center, New Brunswick Police/Community Partnership Program, Puerto Rican Action Board, Planned Parenthood of Central New Jersey, Jack and Jill of America, N.J. Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Middlesex County Health Department, Civic League of Greater New Brunswick, and St. Peter's Medical Center.

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WALL:

100 Main Street

Lincoln Center offers children entertainment

NEW YORK—During the 1996-97 season, an imaginative mix of performances, especially for youngsters, will be offered at Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts. In the next few weeks families may choose from jazz, circus, Saturday matinees of classic movies (of course there's popcorn!), "George Balanchine's The Nutcracker," and the gala lighting of the Christmas tree at Fountain Plaza, just to name a few.

Movies for Kids: Now through December 15, re-live the really scary cinematic adventures of Godzilla, the firebreathing giant lizard. November 16 and 17: *Godzilla*, November 23 and

24: *Godzilla vs. The Smog Monster*, December 14 and 15: *Conan, the Guardian of the Universe*. Special holiday screening of *The Secret Garden*, based on the book by Frances Hodgson Burnett, with Margaret O'Brien and David Stockwell (1949). Screenings are held most Saturdays and Sundays at the Walter Reed Theatre at 2 p.m. Admission is \$2 for kids and adults. To be placed on the mailing list or for other information, call 212-875-5610. Movies For Kids is presented by the Film Society of Lincoln Center, and funded by the New York Times Foundation.

Big Apple Circus: through January 12, 1997 (including Christmas Day and New Year's Eve performance) at Danmoch Park, just left of the Metropolitan Opera House. The Big Apple Circus presents "The Medicine Show," a whimsical visit to a small town in 1890s America. Our guide Doc Pichem, the medicine man, who votes his magical elixir as he introduces aerialists, equestrians, elephants, and clowns, all in one ring. No seat is more than 50 feet from the ring and the tent is fully heated. The performance lasts 2 hours and 15 minutes, with an intermission.

ENTERTAINMENT

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BillBoard

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 14
NEWARK—WBOG launches its 1997 calendar with a debut reception from 6 to 9 p.m. For more info call 201-424-8880 or 201-643-4300.

NEW BRUNSWICK—The Rutgers Jazz Combo performs popular jazz works at Nicholas Music Center at 8 p.m. For more info call 908-932-7511.

NOVEMBER 14 THRU 17
JERSEY CITY—Jersey City State College to stage Tennessee Williams' *Gate of Angels*. For more info call 201-200-3426.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 15
NEWARK—The Priory Restaurant hosts Friday's in the Atrium with Blues Wing from 7 to 11 p.m. For more info call 201-242-8012.

NEW YORK—The Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture presents Global Issues Forum "The Current Status of the Global Political Economy of African Peoples" at 7 p.m. For more info call 212-491-2206.

NEW BRUNSWICK—The Rutgers Wind Ensemble will perform popular classical works in Nicholas Music at 8 p.m. For more info call 908-932-7511.

NEWARK—Essex County College presents pianist Richard Alston at the Mary Burke Theater at 7:30 p.m. For more info call 908-677-4425.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 16
WATCHUNG—Watching Arts Center presents Tini Turner along with John Menegon on Bass. For more info call 908-753-0190.

NEW BRUNSWICK—Opera La Cante in Gilbert and Sullivan's *The Pirates of Penzance* at the State Theater at 8:00 p.m. For more info call 908-246-7469.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 17
NEW BRUNSWICK—The State Theater presents *Romeo and Juliet* performed by the Haverhill Shakespeare Festival at 2:00 p.m. For more info call 908-246-7469.

NEW YORK—The Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture presents "An Evening with Dick Gregory" at 3 p.m. For more info call 212-491-2206.

NEW YORK—Princess Jenkins and the New York Black presents *Let's Cookin' for Change* at the Biscuits on the Park from 3 to 7 p.m. For more info call 212-926-8802.

NEWARK—New Jersey Symphony Orchestra presents piano recital with Alicia Del Lencroix at Newark Symphony Hall at 3 p.m. For more info call 1-800-ALLEGRO.

NEWARK—The Priory Restaurant hosts Bright Moments with Linda Ipanema from 10 to 11 p.m. For more info call 201-242-8012.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 17
NEW YORK—New Federal Theater presents *Joe Turner's Come and Gone* by August Wilson. For more info call 212-363-1170.

Zulu Wars, the story of the Zulu tribe airs on TLC



Zulu Wars, a world premiere three-part mini-series, is the first complete retrospective of the African Zulu nation since the fall of Apartheid—told for the first time from the Zulu perspective, as well as from that of the Boer (Dutch settlers) and British. Popularized by the 1964 film *Zulu* starring Michael Caine, the Zulus—"people of the heavens"—compiled an extraordinary history in their struggle for sovereignty. This historical saga tells the Zulu's powerful story through unforgettable characters beginning with Shaka, founder of the Zulu Empire, who the first united the tribes into a nation, and ending with Cetshwayo, the last Zulu king to lead the Zulu nation. Episodes recount the military strategies and raw ferocity of the Zulu's bloody 19th-century battles with the Boers and British colonists. *Zulu Wars* premieres Monday, November 18 through Wednesday, November 20 at 9 p.m. and midnight each night. Pictured is Zulu General.

Lena Horne: In Her Own Voice to air on Thirteen/WNET



Lena Horne with Eddie (Rochester) Anderson in the 1943 MGM film *Cabin in the Sky*. Photo courtesy of Kabel Collection.

Natalie Cole to perform benefit at Lincoln Center



NEW YORK, NY—In *The Spirit of Swing*, a gala evening benefiting Jazz at Lincoln Center, will be held on Monday, November 18 at Avery Fisher Hall of the Center. Hosted by 60 Minutes correspondent Ed Bradley, the concert will feature

performances by Natalie Cole, Savion Glover and Ruth Brown, all performing with Artistic Director Wynton Marsalis and the Lincoln Center Jazz Orchestra. The event will feature the first annual Jazz at Lincoln Center Award for Artistic Excellence, which will be presented to Lionel Hampton. George Weissman will also be honored with the Jazz at Lincoln Center Award for Leadership. A cocktail hour will run from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m., at which time the concert will begin. Dinner and dancing will follow at the New York State Theater Promenade from 9:15 to 11 p.m. Tickets are concert only: \$100, \$75, \$50 and are available through Avery Fisher Hall Box Office or CenterCharge at 212-721-6500; cocktails and concert: \$200 and are available through Events Associates at 212-245-6570; cocktails, concert and dinner: \$5000 and are also available through Events Associates.

Blue Magic to perform at Club Bené

SAYREVILLE—The legendary group Blue Magic will be appearing in concert at the Club Bené dinner Theatre in Sayreville on Saturday, November 30. Showtime will be at 9 p.m. with an optional dinner at 7 p.m.

Thinking of Blue Magic automatically brings to mind the sounds of the classic R&B groups, such as The Four Tops, The Temps, The Stylistics, The Chi-Lites and others. Today all of these groups are enjoying a tremendous amount of airplay on KISS-FM radio, which plays nothing but classic soul, Romantic, sensual, soothing and captivating are the words that describe the musical talents of Blue Magic.

The group was formed in the 70s, and its self titled debut LP went gold and produced the group's first million selling hit single *Sideshow*. The success of that musical tribute led to Blue



The legendary Blue Magic

Magic's recording of eight LPs. The four members of the group are Keith Beaton, second tenor, Wendell Sawyer, baritone and lead vocalist, Ted Mills, lead vocalist, and Vernon Sawyer, first tenor.

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NEW YORK—Even at 79, the legendary Lena Horne has a quality of timelessness about her. Elegant and wise, she personifies both the glamour of Hollywood and the reality of a lifetime spent battling racial and social injustice.

Pushed by an ambitious mother into the chorus line of Harlem's famous Cotton Club when she was 16, and maneuvered into a film career by the NAACP, she was the first African American signed to a long-term studio contract.

In her rise beyond Hollywood's racial stereotypes of maids, butlers and African natives to achieve true stardom on the silver screen, she became a catalyst for change even before the glittery fringes of studio life. *AMERICAN MASTERS*, Thirteen/WNET's award-winning biography series, launches its star-studded 11th season with *Lena Horne: In Her Own Voice*, premiering Monday, November 15 at 9 p.m. on PBS (check local listings). In this exclusive and unprecedented hour-long documentary portrait, Horne takes us through the extraordinary journey to reluctant stardom, and her inward search for her own true voice.

Interviews with the people who know Horne best provide further insight into her courageous life and turbulent times. They include journalists Liz Smith and Jonathan Schwartz; actors Ossie Davis, Josephine Premice and Alan King; actor/publisher Michael Wright; musicians Bobby Short, Luther Henderson and Joe Williams; and Horne's daughter Gail Buckley.

But it is Horne, herself, who, with unfettered candor, tells the story of her life—from her lonely, nomadic childhood to her days with the Cotton Club in the 1930s and Cafe Society in the early 1940s, from her on-screen breakthroughs to her ultimate abandonment of Hollywood. It is the compelling account of being caught between two worlds. Perhaps most telling is her description of the double-edged nature of breaking the color barrier in Hollywood. As she rose to stardom, she unknowingly alienated scores of other black character actors working in Hollywood at the time.



Lena Horne appearing on Broadway in her 1981 one-woman show *The Lady and Her Music*. Photo courtesy of Christian Slater/Photofest.

Look for the ESSENCE "What A Man" Contest winner next week.

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CA P rop 209 lawsuit follows path of 1960s housing case

by Bob Egello

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Like opponents of a housing discrimination initiative more than 30 years ago, civil rights organizations rushed to federal court last Wednesday arguing that the newly passed Proposition 209 is unconstitutionally discriminatory.

The same path was trodden by foes of a 1978 Washington state anti-busing initiative and a 1992 Colorado anti-gay initiative.

Though the cases differ, last Wednesday's suit makes the same argument as the earlier suits: that by prohibiting state or local agencies from adopting anti-discrimination measures on behalf of a particular vulnerable group, the state engaged in discrimination in violation of the Constitution.

Proposition 209, by amending the state constitution to ban "preferential treatment" based on race or sex, bans a wide range of "affirmative action" programs, ranging from set-asides in local contracting to special tutoring for minority students.

The lawsuit noted that other common "preferences," like admissions for children of alumni and bonus points for veterans in hiring, were unaffected.

"Proposition 209 impermissibly cuts off (women and minorities') ability to seek assistance and protection from the government on the same basis as everyone else," said the suit filed in U.S. District Court. "In the same vein as poll taxes and literacy tests, Proposition 209 limits plaintiffs' access to the levers of government."

Attorney General Dan Lungren, a Proposition 209 supporter whose office will defend the measure, "firmly believes the law is constitutional" and will oppose efforts to block its enforcement during the suit, said spokesman Steve Telliano.

The plaintiffs—minority and female contractors and other business owners, labor unions and students in targeted programs—have some history on their side: the battle over Proposition 14 of 1964.

After an equally divisive campaign, California voters passed an initiative sponsored by the real estate industry that repealed state laws barring discrimination in housing and guaranteed the seller's right to choose a buyer. But the U.S. Supreme Court struck the measure down in 1967.

Although the state was not prohibited from repealing its own laws, wrote Justice Harry Blackmun, the placement of Proposition 14 in the state Constitution "involved the state in private race discrimination."

Fifteen years later the court overturned a Washington initiative that barred school boards from ordering busing for desegregation. Although that measure, like Proposition 14, did

not mention race, it impermissibly limited blacks' ability to seek help from local school boards, the court said.

This May, the court struck down another state initiative, the 1992 Colorado measure banning local anti-discrimination laws against homosexuals.

Gay-rights groups in that case raised an argument virtually identical to the Proposition 209 suit: that the state, by placing such laws beyond the reach of local governments, violated gays' right to equal access to the political system. The Colorado Supreme Court accepted that argument, but the U.S. Supreme Court did not go that far.

While declaring that government must "remain open on impartial terms to all who seek its assistance," the court concluded that the Colorado measure was invalid because it served no purpose except to enforce prejudice against homosexuals.

Amber Williams: a rising star

by Les Wright

Jackie Joyner-Kersey may have gravitated to the game of basketball, however Amber Williams of Succasunna, NJ and the Lakeland Track Club has made good use of the Heptathlete role model.

Amber has nearly duplicated her own running accomplishments of 1995. During July of 1995 Amber became the National Champion in the 11 to 12 age group of the Pentathlon (80m hurdles, shot put high jump, long jump, and 800m dash), setting a national record with 3256 points. That record was 43 points more than the previous record set in 1989 by Courtney Berkland of Lincoln, NE.

Amber also won the individual 80m hurdles at this USA T&F National meet in San Jose, CA. In the Fall Amber was a member of Lakeland's National third place Cross-Country team in Ba-

ton Rouge, LA. The accomplishments for 1995 gained Amber the honor of being selected as "Youth Athlete of the Year" USAT&F-NJ—the first female to be so honored in the NJ Association.

During this past summer, 13-year-old Amber was outstanding at the USAT&F Region II Championships at Slippery Rock University, PA. Amazingly, winning the 100m hurdles, 200m dash, 400m dash, and long jump individual titles; plus, the Pentathlon which consist of 5 events. At the National Championships in Houston, TX she won the Pentathlon and placed second

in the 100m hurdles.

The accomplishments of this summer qualifies her for a nomination for the NJ Youth Athlete of the Year Award. She will participate in the Regionals in Canadagua, NY and National Championships in Lexington, KY on December 14.

Amber is not only an exceptional athlete, she is a star student who maintains honor roll status at school.

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Diabetes Center sponsors free foot screening to help diabetics

PLAINFIELD—In observance of National Diabetes Month, the Diabetes Center of New Jersey (DCNJ), a department of Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center (MRMC), is hosting a "Foot Care Aware" program on Saturday, November 16. The event, which is in conjunction with the American

Diabetes Association (ADA), will be held from 9 a.m. until 1 p.m. in the MRMC's Same Day Surgery Unit.

This free program is designed to help people with diabetes determine if they are suffering from, or are at risk for, developing foot complications that can lead to gangrene and amputation.

Each year, more than 65,000 people in the United States lose their limbs as a result of diabetes. Nearly 50 percent of all foot and leg amputations can be prevented with proper education.

Pre-registration is required. For more information about this or other programs call DCNJ at 908-668-2575.

Cooper credits black vote

Continued from page 1

pudding is that last night, for example, in East Orange, 62 percent of the people in East Orange voted. Bob Torricelli received 95 percent of that vote, Bill Clinton—94 percent, Donald Payne—95 percent.

"That was sort of indicative...of what was going on around the state last night," Cooper believes that the success was due to the campaign reaching out early to urban communities.

Referring to the democratic party allegations of voter intimidation of African-American voters by Republicans, Cooper said, "I believe the whole issue of voter intimidation was addressed last night. The best protection against voter intimidation is for people to go out and vote." Cooper added that the African-American community would not be "denied of their franchise right."

Also on the dais with Mayor Cooper were New Jersey Democratic Chairman Tom Byrne, Clinton/Cooper New Jersey Director Paul Pezella, Victory '96 State Director Gigi Georges, and Torricelli Campaign Director David Plouffe.

Texaco executives

Continued from page 1

that he is initiating six steps to reinforce company policy and codes of ethics. Among the measures Bijur announced included: visits by senior executives to company locations to apologize to employees, expanding Texaco's "diversity learning experience," and reemphasizing respect for the law.

"They are statements that represent a profound contempt, not only for the law, but for Texaco's explicitly clear values and policies," Bijur said.

Attorney Daniel Berger, who represents the black employees who sued Texaco in 1994, said he had been told that the U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of New York began a criminal investigation into whether executives planned to destroy documents sought by his clients.

Asked if the documents were shredded, Bijur said his legal team was "in the process of securing" them. Meanwhile, NAACP President Kweisi Mfume issued a statement asking Attorney General Janet Reno and FBI Director Louis Freeh to investigate whether civil rights laws were violated. He called the comments on the tapes "outrageous and scurrilous."

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We've joined with retailers, wholesalers, and other major cigarette manufacturers to support an ambitious new program which will provide stores across the country with signs and educational materials to promote awareness of minimum-age laws and the importance of checking ID.

We're also supporting the passage of state legislation to more effectively enforce minimum-age laws.

These are just some of the things we're doing to help prevent underage smoking. We don't claim that any one of them is an answer by itself.

But they all help keep cigarettes away from kids. And that's the best way to keep kids away from cigarettes.



PHILIP MORRIS USA

Action Against Access.